Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims

1. (currently amended) A method, comprising:

receiving, at a bi-directional communications device, an application level gateway (ALG) file;

comparing, at the bi-directional communications device, a particular one ~~at least one~~ compatibility parameter of said ALG file with ~~at least one~~ both a compatibility ~~of at least one~~ feature of said bi-directional communications device and ~~at least one~~ a non-signature, non-code-error checking feature expected in received and authentic ALG files by said bi-directional communications device; and

storing said ALG file at said bi-directional communications device in response to a favorable comparison of said at least one compatibility parameter.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

rejecting said ALG file at said bi-directional communications device in response to an unfavorable comparison of said ~~at least~~ particular one compatibility parameter.

3. (cancelled)

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said ~~at least~~ particular one compatibility parameter comprises one of a ~~file~~ header size of said ALG file and a body size of said ALG file.

5-10. (cancelled)

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said bi-directional communications device comprises a cable modem.

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving step comprises:

periodically polling a service provider to determine if at least one of a new and updated ALG file is available;

sending a request for an available ALG file; and

receiving said requested ALG file from an access network.

13. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving step comprises:

receiving a configuration file from said service provider, said configuration file identifying at least one of new and updated ALG files;

sending a request for an available ALG files; and

receiving said requested ALG file from an access network.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein a firewall program utilizes said ALG files to control data traffic.

15. (cancelled)

16. (currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:

means for receiving, at a bi-directional communications device, an application level gateway (ALG) file;

means for comparing, at the bi-directional communications device, a particular one ~~at least one~~ compatibility parameter of said ALG file with ~~at least one~~ both a compatibility ~~of at least one~~ feature of said bi-directional communications device and ~~at least one~~ a non-signature, non-code-error checking feature expected in received and authentic ALG files by said bi-directional communications device; and

means for storing said ALG file at said bi-directional communications device in response to a favorable comparison of said ~~at least~~ particular one compatibility parameter.

17. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising:

means for rejecting said ALG file at said bi-directional communications device in response to an unfavorable comparison of said ~~at least~~ particular one compatibility parameter.

18. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said bi-directional communications device comprises a cable modem.

19. (cancelled)

20. (cancelled)

21. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one compatibility feature of said bi-directional communications device comprises an amount of available memory in said bi-directional communications device to store the ALG file.

22. (new) The method of claim 4, wherein the at least one compatibility feature of said bi-directional communications device comprises an amount of available memory in said bi-directional communications device to store the ALG file.

23. (new) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the non-signature, non-code-error checking feature expected in received and authentic ALG files by said bi-directional communications device comprises one of a header size of said ALG file and a body size of said ALG file.

24. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein a value of the particular one compatibility parameter of said ALG file is added to a value of another particular one compatibility parameter of said ALG file as a sum that is compared to a value of the compatibility feature of said bi-directional communications device.

25. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein the value of the particular one compatibility parameter of said ALG file is directly compared to a value of the non-signature, non-code-error checking feature expected in received and authentic ALG files by said bi-directional communications device.

26. (new) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the at least one compatibility feature of said bi-directional communications device comprises an amount of available memory in said bi-directional communications device to store the ALG file.

27. (new) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said particular one compatibility parameter comprises one of a header size of said ALG file and a body size of said ALG file.

28. (new) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the at least one compatibility feature of said bi-directional communications device comprises an amount of available memory in said bi-directional communications device to store the ALG file.

29. (new) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the non-signature, non-code-error checking feature expected in received and authentic ALG files by said bi-directional communications device comprises one of a header size of said ALG file and a body size of said ALG file.

30. (new) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein a value of the particular one compatibility parameter of said ALG file is added to a value of another particular one compatibility parameter of said ALG file as a sum that is compared to a value of the compatibility feature of said bi-directional communications device.

31. (new) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the value of the particular one compatibility parameter of said ALG file is directly compared to a value of the non-signature, non-code-error checking feature expected in received and authentic ALG files by said bi-directional communications device